

Testimony of Michael Diamond
Managing Partner, AffinEco LLC
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Labor & Public Employees Committee
March 5, 2015

Good morning, Chairpersons Senator Gomes and Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee, my name is Michael Diamond, I am the Managing Partner of AffinEco LLC. I also serve on the board of directors of our industry association, the Building Service Contractors Association International. This association governs over 1000 companies in the facility service industry across the country and collects data on building usage and service needs of the real estate community.

I am here today to testify in regard to:

H.B. No. 6877 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A MINIMUM WORK WEEK FOR PERSONS PERFORMING JANITORIAL WORK.

AffinEco LLC is comprised of Premier Maintenance, United Services of America, and Melillo Maintenance, Inc. AffinEco, a janitorial contractor company is an industry leading service provider in New England with its Headquarters in Connecticut. We have an accomplished 49 year history.

We currently have approximately 800 employees in the State of Connecticut and service over 20 million SF of real estate. We service commercial office buildings, industrial locations, schools and a variety of other locations

This law will have a significant impact on our costs to the real estate and business community. Increasing hours to a minimum of 30 hours in facilities over 100,000 SF will engage a clause in the collective bargaining agreement that provides family Health care coverage paid 100% by the employee and passed thru to the client and its tenants.

This will also create hardship on our clients due to longer hours in the office building, which will increase energy costs for lighting and HVAC systems. Also facilities will need longer security guard coverage at an increased cost.

Those costs will encourage owners to reduce costs in other ways including scope of work reductions. These reductions may impact overall facility health standards for its occupants.

Additionally since our industry is comprised of many 4 hour shift evening workers, a consolidation of these shifts will actually create unemployment for 1 person as the other becomes a full-time positions.

Lastly reducing the workforce will create safety concerns with employees working independently and working alone in buildings later into the evening

Thank you.

Michael Diamond